

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NICOSI 01676 01 OF 02 250623Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 /072 W
-----084856 250634Z /12

R 250500Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6055
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USNMR SHAPE BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 1676

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CY
SUBJECT: TURKISH CYPRIOT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: LONG-SIMMERING DISSENSION WITHIN DENKTASH'S NATIONAL
UNITY PARTY--FUELED BY PERSONAL RIVALRIES, DISSATISFACTION WITH
"PRIME MINISTER" KONUK'S CABINET, GENERAL POLITICAL MALAISE,
AND EXPECTATION OF POLITICAL CHANGE IN ANKARA--HAS AGAIN
SURFACED. EIGHT NUP DEPUTIES DEMAND FORMATION OF NEW CABINET,
STRENGTHENING SPECULATION THAT CABINET CHANGES ARE IN THE
OFFING. CABINET RESHUFFLE, IF IT OCCURS, WILL HAVE NO PRACTICAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NICOSI 01676 01 OF 02 250623Z

EFFECT ON THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND ONLY MARGINAL
IMPACT ON TFSC'S ABILITY TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH TURKISH
CYPRIOT COMMUNITY'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

1. EVER SINCE RESIGNATIONS OF TFSC FINANCE AND EDUCATION
MINISTERS LAST DECEMBER AND MAY, DENKTASH'S NATIONAL
UNITY PARTY (NUP) AND THE KONUK CABINET HAVE BEEN WEAKENED

BY INTRA-PARTY FEUDING, RECURRENT RUMORS OF IMPENDING CABINET SHAK-UPS AND PARTY DEFECTIONS, AND FAILURE OF KONUK GOVERNMENT TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE OR PROVIDE COMMUNITY A SENSE OF DIRECTION. OPPOSITION PRESS, WHILE SUPPORTING DENKTASH ON "THE NATIONAL QUESTION", HAS BEEN QUICK TO EXPLOIT DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE NUP, PEDDLE RUMORS OF CABINET CHANGES, AND CRITICIZE LEADERSHIP FOR SQUANDERING RESOURCES WHICH CAME INTO TURKISH HANDS FOLLOWING 1974 INTERVENTION, MISMANAGING THE ECONOMY AND RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS, FAILING TO CONTROL INFLATION, AND BRINGING IN UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS FROM THE MAINLAND.

2. APPROACH OF TURKISH ELECTIONS BROUGHT INTENSIFIED CRITICISM, NUP DISSENSION, AND POLITICAL SPECULATION. ON JUNE 1 PRESS REPORTED THAT TFSC COMMERCE MINISTER ASAFHAN, THE ONLY CABINET MEMBER OUTSIDE THE ASSEMBLY, HAD SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION FOLLOWING PERSISTENT, BEHIND-THE-SCENES SNIPING ABOUT HIS MINISTRY'S PERFORMANCE. ON JUNE 4 (WHEN IT WAS WIDELY EXPECTED HERE THAT ECEVIT WOULD HANDILY WIN THE ELECTIONS AND THAT THIS WOULD REQUIRE A TFSC CABINET RE-SHUFFLE) EIGHT OF THE NUP'S 29 ASSEMBLY MEMBERS PRESENTED KONUK WITH A MEMORANDUM DEMANDING RESIGNATION OF PRESENT CABINET AND FORMATION OF A NEW ONE, AGAIN UNDER KONUK.

3. KONUK ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THE MEMORANDUM JUNE 6, AS HE WAS DEPARTING FOR NEW YORK, AND SAID THAT FOLLOWING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NICOSI 01676 01 OF 02 250623Z

HIS RETURN (IN JULY) HE WOULD CONSULT PARTY MEMBERS, ASSESS THE SITUATION, AND ANNOUNCE HIS CONCLUSIONS PUBLICLY. ON JUNE 7 DENKTASH'S SON RAIF, (NUP SECRETARY GENERAL WHO DID NOT SIGN MEMORANDUM) TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE THAT SUCH INTRA-PARTY CRITICISM REFLECTED PARTY'S DYNAMISM, DENIED THAT HE HAD DEMANDED KONUK'S RESIGNATION, BUT CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH KONUK THE NEED FOR "A NEW START" AND CHANGES IN THE CABINET.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY, TURK CYPRIOT PRESS REPORTED THAT VARIOUS LISTS OF PROPOSED NEW CABINETS WERE CIRCULATING WITHIN NUP. IN AN ATTEMPT TO DAMPEN RUMORS, RAIF DENKTASH TERMED SUCH REPORTS PURE SPECULATION, CONFIRMED COMMERCE MINISTER'S RESIGNATION, SAID VACANT EDUCATION AND COMMERCE POSTS WOULD BE FILLED FOLLOWING KONUK'S RETURN, AND SAID THAT KONUK WOULD BE THE ONE TO DECIDE WHETHER OTHER CABINET CHANGES WERE REQUIRED.

5. COMMENTN (A) A PRIME SOURCE OF NUP FRICTIONS HAS BEEN ISMET KOTAK, A SELF-ASSURED, AMBITIOUS, AND OPPORTUNISTIC DEPUTY FROM FAMAGUSTA WHO WAS DROPPED FROM THE CABINET FOLLOWING THE JUNE 76 ELECTIONS AS A RESULT OF DIFFERENCES WITH DENKTASH AND WIDESPREAD GRUMBLING OVER KOTAK'S HANDLING OF LAND AND HOUSING DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM. THE EIGHT DEPUTIES WHO

DEMANDED CABINET'S RESIGNATION ARE KNOW AS MEMBERS OF THE NUP'S "KOTAK FACTION" AND MANY OF THE RUMORS REGARDING CABINET CHANGES, KOTAK'S RE-ENTRY INTO THE CABINET, AND HIS BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE EMANATED FROM KOTAK.

(B) SINCE LOSING HIS CABINET POSITION, KOTAK HAS CALCULATEDLY ESPOUSED POPULAR CRITICISMS OF THE ECONOMY AND THE KONUK ADMINISTRATION, PROJECTED HIMSELF AND HIS WING OF THE NUP AS "SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC" AND CLOSE TO ECEVIT, AND TALKED OPENLY (IF UNCONVINCEINGLY) OF FORMING A NEW PARTY. THOUGH DENKTASH IS ANNOYED BY KOTAK'S TROUBLE-MAKING ABILITY AND ANXIOUS TO KEEP HIM OUT OF THE CABINET, KOTAK'S TACTICS MAY BE PAYING OFF IN TERMS OF PUBLIC OPINION. PUBLIC MEMORIES OF HIS ROLE IN THE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM HAVE DIMMED AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NICOSI 01676 01 OF 02 250623Z

MANY TURKISH CYPRIOTS WHO DESIRE CONFIDENT LEADERSHIP IN THE CABINET WHICH CAN END THE SENSE OF DRIFT ARE ATTRACTED BY KOTAK'S SELF-ASSURED AND FORCEFUL MANNER AND SEE HIM AS A POTENTIAL LEADER.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NICOSI 01676 02 OF 02 250629Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 /072 W

-----084878 250634Z /12

R 250500Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6056
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USNMR SHAPE BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NICOSIA 1676

(C) FROM THE STANDPOINT OF OUR INTERESTS ON CYPRUS, TURKISH CYPRIOT POLITICAL SQUABBLES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ESOTERIC, SOMEWHAT QUAIN, AND MOSTLY IRRELEVANT. THE PRESENT INFIGHTING IS NOT EXCEPTION, FOR TURKEY MAKE THE MAJOR DECISIONS IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, DENKTASH REMAINS THE OVERWHELMINGLY DOMINANT FIGURE IN TURKISH POLITICS, THE CABINET WIELDS RELATIVELY LITTLE POWER, AND THE ABILITIES OF POTENTIAL CABINET APPOINTEES DO NOT VARY ENOUGH TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN THE RFSC'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE. IN SHORT, A CABINET RESHUFFLE, IF ONE OCCURS, MAY MOMENTARILY SOOTHE POLITICAL RESTLESSNESS WITHIN THE TURKISH COMMUNITY, BUT IT WILL HAVE NO PRATICAL EFFECT ON THE INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS AND ONLY A MARGINAL IMPACT ON THE TFSC'S OR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NICOSI 01676 02 OF 02 250629Z

DENKTASH#S ABILITY TO COPE WITH COMMUNITY'S PROBLEMS.
DILLERY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY UNITY, PARTY DISSENSION, NATIONALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NICOSI01676
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770227-1129
Format: TEL
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770618/aaaaapqa.tel
Line Count: 197
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6ad57e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2031521
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH CYPRIOT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS SUMMARY: LONG-SIMMERING DISSENSION WITHIN DENKTASHI'S NATIONAL UNITY PARTY--FUELED BY PERSONAL RIVALRIES, DISS ATI
TAGS: PINT, CY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6ad57e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009